

they're entitled to special perks. Americans shouldn't be forced to pay for CEO bonuses and luxury corporate jets for the rich and famous robber barons.

But you see, Madam Speaker, they must need that jet to fly to New York Mets games because Citigroup is spending \$400 million to plaster its name on its new stadium, Citi Field.

And that's just the way it is.

CITIGROUP AND THEIR \$50 MILLION FRENCH-BUILT CORPORATE JET

(Mr. HALL of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, Citigroup did take more than \$45 billion in taxpayer-funded rescue money. And imagine the shock and outrage that I and many other Americans felt when we heard this week that Citigroup was buying a \$50 million French-built corporate jet.

Is there no shame? America is in the midst of a recession, with the highest unemployment in 16 years and the highest foreclosure rate in more than three decades. People all over the country are losing their jobs, their homes, their small businesses. And in the midst of all this, a company that the taxpayers are bailing out with our tax dollars is buying a plush corporate jet.

I voted to rescue the banks, reluctantly, for one reason and one reason only: to free up credit so that small businesses and individuals could have access to loans for essentials such as college tuition and home mortgages and the economy could keep running. A new private jet is not what I voted for.

Thankfully, pressure from Congress and the White House has forced Citigroup to cancel the purchase of this plane. But the incident is a glaring example of the blatant lack of accountability from banks seeking rescue money. It needs to stop. And I look forward to working with the new Treasury Secretary to correct this oversight and make it clear that explicit restrictions are placed on any rescue money used by the banks.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, there are 11 million unemployed Americans receiving a notice that says they owe taxes on their unemployment benefits and they'll have a huge bill due on April 15. After this scary realization, these folks will get on their phones or their computers to ask us where we think they are going to get the money to pay the additional tax.

As this Congress works to find ways to kick-start the economy, I propose we not kick these folks when they're

down and we eliminate the tax on unemployment insurance benefits for 2008 and 2009.

This economic stimulus ought to do this. The 1099 statements that are showing up in mailboxes to notify my constituents that they owe Federal taxes on their unemployment is just ridiculous. I'd want to be able to tell my constituents we're going to do something about this problem.

Let's go back to the drawing board and come together to really help the unemployed.

At this time I'd also want to say thank you and God bless to Kathleen Black, who is going from my staff to the Senate, one of the best tax persons in the Congress.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

(Mr. DRIEHAUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join students and families and educators across the country to mark this very important week, Catholic Schools Week.

For thousands of children in the United States, including my own, Catholic schools are laying the foundation for bright and successful futures while calling young people to service and fostering values that strengthen our families and our communities.

I want to congratulate three people in particular: Father Andrew Umberg, pastor of St. William Parish in Cincinnati; Lisa Driggers, a teacher at St. James School in Green Township; and Tim Otten, principal of Elder High School, my alma mater, who have all been honored this year by the National Catholic Education Association. This week we recognize them and other Catholic educators for their important contributions not only to education but to their community and to their country.

THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT: A MASSIVE GOVERNMENT-SPENDING BILL THAT WILL PLUNGE THE NATION DEEPER INTO DEBT

(Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, the American people are hurting and our economy is in recession.

Congress is right to take action to stimulate the economy, but the American people know that we cannot borrow and spend our way back to prosperity. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 is a massive and wasteful government spending bill that will not stimulate our economy but will recklessly plunge our Nation deeper and deeper into debt.

The deficit for the next 2 years is already projected to be \$2 trillion. If deficit spending were an effective eco-

nomics stimulus, then the economy would be on the verge of a recovery. But it isn't.

Congress can accelerate the process of economic recovery by passing legislation that will improve the incentives that drive economic activity. Lowering tax rates will create the incentives for individuals and businesses to save, to work, to invest their money.

Madam Speaker, the American people are hurting and they deserve a better proposal than this.

THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT WILL REVITALIZE THE ECONOMY

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I just listened to my friend from Colorado expound upon the problems of deficit spending. Well, he's absolutely right about the deficit spending from the Republican administration and Congress. They piled up debt with tax cuts for people who didn't need it, a reckless war in Iraq on a credit card.

This package that's coming before us today is actually doing something for the American people, investing in infrastructure and energy. It is looking to a plan for the recovery of the economy, using new technology and new ways of doing business, getting more value out of our investment.

I am pleased that the President reached out to the other side of the aisle even as their leaders were saying before the meeting they were against his package. But I am pleased, while he reached out, he was unwavering in his commitment that our package is going to focus on the people who need help the most, revitalizing the economy, and moving us forward.

I look forward to the passage today of this legislation and further refinement as we move it through Congress with our new administration.

DTV TRANSITION

(Mr. RADANOVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the digital television delay bill that the House will be voting on under suspension today.

The bill needlessly delays the DTV transition date of February 17 and undermines the government's credibility with consumers and broadcasters who have prepared for the transition, as well as the private industry that is relying on the spectrum that they purchased to be available.

The bill also facilitates the need for \$650 million in the stimulus to be spent on the converter box coupon program but ironically does not get a single person off the coupon waiting list.

Finally, the bill prevents spectrum from being cleared for first responders and emergency communications.